

THE BARBOUR COUNTY INDEX.

TERMS

DEVOTED TO THE UP BUILDING OF THE CITY. AND THE LIVE STOCK INTERESTS OF THE SOUTHWEST.

VOL. 3.

MEDICINE LODGE, BARBOUR CO., KANSAS, APRIL 20, 1883

\$2 A YEAR

NO. 46.

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MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS.

CAPITAL STOCK \$100,000.

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THE BARBOUR COUNTY INDEX

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AN EIGHT-PAGE, SEVEN-COLUMN, WEEKLY, DEVOTED TO THE LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS OF THE SOUTHWEST.

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All reading notices 10 cents per line each insertion. CASH QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

The Union Cattle company, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, was organized last month. Capital stock \$3,000,000, in shares of \$100.

The North American Cattle company, of Wyoming, has been recently organized with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, in shares of \$100.

Houston, March 21.—Blackleg is reported to have made its appearance among cattle in the northern part of this country. Much valuable stock have died from the disease and it is feared the disease will spread to the southern part of the country, where there are thousands of cattle. Naturally the rumor has excited much apprehension among the stockmen.

Clay Barton, who has just come in from the roundup, says that in the gathering of 3,000 head of cattle on Crooked Creek and vicinity, which they brought to the Arkansas river, that he saw but ten dead cattle, and in bringing that number up had to kill but two head. This shows that the loss of cattle is small and the present condition good.—Dodge City Globe.

Peter Stuart bought the Jones & Prescott cattle the other day, paying \$12,500. On Tuesday last, he shipped three car loads of beefs out of the herd, and made a contract with Mr. Mitchell, north of town and near the Chikaskia, to feed the balance of the herd, which consists principally of she cattle. We have not been able to ascertain what Jones & Prescott made out of the sale but we are satisfied Mr. Stuart's ultimate profit on the transaction will be something handsome.—Caldwell Commercial.

At the "New York Farmers'" dinner recently, Mr. Thomas Sturgis, a gentleman representing 60,000 head of cattle, gave the following particulars regarding the Wyoming Stock-growing Association: This body organized ten years ago with ten members, representing 25,000 head of cattle worth \$500,000, to-day has a membership of one hundred, representing 1,000,000 head of cattle worth \$50,000,000, and last year sent to market 200,000 head of cattle which netted their owners \$10,000,000.

Now that the Secretary has thrown the matter of disposing of the Strip into the hands of the Cherokee, an effort will be made by the Strip Live Stock Association to secure a lease of that whole country. They claim that though it will cost them more it will be far more satisfactory both to the Nation and to themselves than by the old method of collecting from each individual, and the Cherokees will realize a greater income by several thousand dollars and no money paid for collecting. They propose to pay one cent per acre per annum, which would give the Cherokees an income of \$5,000 from that source.

The Fisher Brothers have contracted to sell their cattle, 712 head, more or less, now in the Territory, to Gregory, Eldred & Co., for the sum of \$22,000. Seven years ago these gentlemen went from Wichita to the Territory with less than a thousand dollars worth of cattle, the most of which were cows. They subsequently added to the herd by the purchase of 250 head of steers. All expenses have been paid by sale of increase, and the \$22,000 is probably clear profit made in a few years from an investment of \$1,000.—Wichita Beacon.

The cattle trade is already opening. The grass is starting finely, and the cattle are said to be generally in good condition. Prices are high and there is no better business in the United States than cattle raising on the vast ranges. Great amounts of capital are invested in the business, which has risen to vast importance in a few years. The people of the United States have become a great beef eating people. While the numbers of cattle are continually increasing, exportations are becoming less. Indeed the prices of meat in the eastern markets are fully as high as in the old country.

The Kansas City Journal learns from a leading stockman who has just returned from the ranges in the Indian Territory, that the loss of cattle this season will be much larger than anticipated earlier in the season. This loss is not attributed to the severity of the winter, but the fact that there has been, and is yet, a great lack of food. The grass on the ranges was very short and poor when the winter set in, and the damp weather of the winter caused it to rot. Food has, as a consequence, been excessively short, so that cattle could scarcely eke out a living upon it. Thousands have actually starved to death. The new grass has started, but the cold, damp weather of the past two weeks has not been favorable to its growth. A week of warm sunshine would bring it forward rapidly, and that is what cattlemen are praying for.

Some things are being done now in the live stock trade which a few years ago would have been regarded as more than passing strange. Circumstances and conditions are changing, and developments of a strange nature are occurring. A circumstance of this kind is the shipment of a considerable quantity of stock cattle from Iowa and a few from Illinois to the plains of Colorado and Wyoming. Stock are so very high out there that their purchase for western shipment seems to be a safe line of investment. However, it looks as though one of two things must be true—either that stockers are not bringing their full value in the states, or that they are abnormally and unreasonably high on the frontier. The reversal of the usual order of things is unusual, and is not only explainable on the ground of general scarcity, and the disposition of ranchmen to go to the fullest extreme that their business will allow, if not in some instances to exceed it. However, the general opinion of those most interested is that the traffic is a safe one and is being conducted on sound business principles.—Pittsburg Stockman.

A son of Mr. Reaman, who resides west of Maple City, saddled his pony last Wednesday morning and started out in the direction of Chautauque county to look up some stray stock, and when about fifteen miles from home—out upon the open prairie—he discovered a prairie fire about a quarter of a mile off. The wind was blowing a perfect gale, and before he had time to decide what course to pursue the fire was almost upon him, and his only chance for escape was to beat a hasty retreat, so he headed his pony for a little creek some five or six miles distant, and applied the whip and spur. He said for the first mile he gained on the fire, but finally his pony commenced to lag, and he saw he was to be overtaken, and when within about a mile and a half of the creek his pony stumbled and fell, but luckily just at the edge of a buffalo lick where the grass was short, and he laid down with his face to the ground and covered himself with his slicker, and let the fire pass over him. One of his hands was quite badly burned, but otherwise he was unhurt, while his pony was burned to death. He said it was a very hot chase.—Arkansas City Traveler.

Kansas City Cattle Sale.

The sale of polled Angus and Galloway cattle, belonging to A. B. Matthews, of Kansas City, and Greary Bros., of London, Canada, was begun last Wednesday at Riverside park, and was completed Thursday. One hundred and eighteen animals were sold at an average of \$533, the total amount being \$27,745. The highest price paid was \$1,100 for "Marfa," bought by Edwin Titus, of Cedarvale, Kansas; the next highest was \$1,032 for "Carlie," bought by J. W. Powers, of West Las Animas, Colorado. The attendance was very large, including stockmen from Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Texas, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Nebraska.

A Monster Land Sale.

It will be remembered that about one year ago, the legislature of the state of Texas ceded a portion of the state, known as the Panhandle, comprising three million acres, to a Chicago syndicate composed of C. B. Farwell, J. H. Farwell, Abner Taylor and A. C. Babcock, in consideration that the latter would erect a capital building in Austin, at a cost of one and a half million dollars, thus fixing the value of the land at fifty cents an acre. A London syndicate has just been given the refusal of the entire tract until April 15th, and the sale is declared virtually concluded, the price to be ten million dollars. The tract—five thousand square miles—comprises the northern arm of the state and is declared to be rich in arable and growing land, watered and timbered to such a degree as to attract three English syndicates, who sent agents across the water for its purchase. The first agent made two propositions: to rent for the privilege of grazing stock, or to buy the land outright. The sale was closed on the latter proposition on condition that the first payment be placed to the credit of the Chicago owners, in the Bank of England, on the date mentioned.

The Fort Gibson Shooting.

The particulars of the affair, as near as we can get at them, are as follows: Parties for some time past have been stealing Tom French's cattle on Fourteen Mile creek, and Tom told Malcolm Moore, about two weeks ago, that he had good reason to believe that it was him and he wanted it stopped. This led to the trouble. Friday last Moore came in town accompanied by Charles Cochran and Bill Raper, and all drank heavily, and were trying to run the town generally. Tom French was standing in the door of Scott's store when Malcolm came to the corner of the store and, reaching around with his left hand, fired a shot at him, but in doing so he exposed his left side and the fire was returned with a "bull-dog" pistol, hitting Moore a little to the left of the nipple. He lingered until 8 o'clock Monday before he died, and about half an hour before his death he remarked that there was not a bullet made that could kill him, and it seemed so, for he had been literally shot to pieces two years ago and recovered, and about three weeks ago Henry Sixkiller fired three shots at him here. He was buried Tuesday. Tom French is now in the Chikassaw Nation gathering cattle. It seems to be a matter of self-defense, from all the accounts we can get of the affair, and we predict that, if arrested, Tom will come out all right.—Musogee Journal.

Captured Horse Thieves.

Yesterday morning two horse thieves were arrested and a third one killed by the officers while resisting them, at a camp six miles south-east of Honnwell. The particulars as we got them are as follows:

Some time ago J. H. Herring living in Clay county, Texas, missed some horse stock, and getting a clue as to the direction it had gone, followed. On Sunday last he arrived in this city, and finding Deputy U. S. Marshal Holder, stated his case to him. Ascertaining the location of the thieves—about six miles south-east of Honnwell—Messrs. Hollister, Brown and Wheeler left here on Tuesday evening at 11 o'clock to capture them. At Honnwell they were joined by Deputy Sheriff Thralls and another officer from Wellington, who had been telegraphed for, and five men from Honnwell. They arrived at the camp just at daylight, and on demanding a surrender, the thieves pulled their Winchester and opened fire. Some hot work followed, terminating in the death of one of the thieves, and the severe wounding of another and the surrender of the whole party, consisting of old man Ross, his wife and two sons. The elder of the two sons had a wife and two children, and was the one killed. The officers were uninjured.

After the surrender, the wounded man made a full confession, and implicated two others who were not present, but who will be "taken in" in due time. The dead man was taken to Honnwell for burial. The recovered stock consists of thirty head of horses, a few mules and a fine stallion for the recovery of which \$500 had been offered.

Much credit is due Messrs. Hollister and Herring for the manner in which they followed the trail of the outlaws.—Caldwell Post.

Cattle prospects.

"What do you think of the coming season's prospects for cattle?" was yesterday asked of Mr. Andy J. Snider, the well known stock buyer and raiser.

"Well, I believe prices will be every bit as high this year as they were last, if not higher. There are fully 35 per cent less grass beefs this year than there was last, and I shouldn't be at all surprised to see a real beef famine before August."

"Why, what's the matter with the producers. Aren't there any cattle in the country?"

"Yes, but I believe the day of cheap cattle is over. I don't think this country will ever see beef down to 2 and 2 1/2 cent again. People talk about the large ranches of the country producing an over supply, when they lose sight of the fact that as long as babies are born and the population continues to increase there is a demand for more beef, which grows greater every day. And when all this western country is being settled up, and the arable land is being taken by the farmers, so that the cattle ranges are growing smaller and smaller all the time, and even now we are using almost all our cattle for home consumption."

"What do you hear regarding the condition of cattle this spring?"

"Their condition is generally poor. On my ranch in Kansas I have lost about a half of one per cent, and the winter has generally been very severe on cattle. In Texas this is especially true, and outside of the Cherokee Strip I believe the loss has been unusually heavy all through the west, and cattle are generally in poor condition. On this account there is a great scarcity of what they call 'dressers' cattle averaging 1,200 pounds, and strange it may appear, there is a bigger demand for dressers than for exporters, 1,300 pound cattle. There is little being done in the way of exporting now, however, and shippers are buying off contracts made a year ago. By the way, I was up in Chicago last week, and I found the commission merchants there becoming very much afraid of Kansas City. Though the Chicago people feel very kindly disposed towards Kansas City, they admit that we have Chicago's ghost. The dressed beef problem is revolutionizing the whole cattle trade and Kansas City is bound to become the great shipping centre. I've seen meat in Florida that had been dressed in Chicago, and there is no reason why the supply of the east need not be shipped from Kansas City by refrigerator cars. Texas cattle properly fed make the finest beef in the world, and I believe the time is not far off when this will be the great shipping point of the country. It may be a few years before the proper establishments are constructed here, but it has always been my theory that Kansas City is to be the great cattle shipping centre, and as I said before, Chicago is very fearful that such will be the case."

THE NORTHERN RANGES.

A Little Reliable Information from the Cold Range Country.

Letters from Miles City, Bozeman and intervening points in the Montana cattle country, give more positive information than has been obtainable heretofore about the losses and condition of stock. At Bozeman, Nelson Story and Myers Brothers, large cattle raisers in the Upper Yellowstone valley, say they have had a winter most favorable to the fostering of their industry. They estimate that the losses for the territory will not be 5 per cent, counting the loss from the too early calving of young heifers, the principal cause of losses on the ranges from year to year. The season so far has been the most favorable for years. There have been twenty-four days of open spring weather, and the grass has sprung up two or three inches on sunny slopes and well protected valleys. The young sprigs of grass have come up in tufts of cured bunch grass and the cattle experience the transition from old to young feed by easy stages, and thrive much better by reason of this happy provision of nature. At Miles City equally favorable reports were given by Joseph Leighton and Judge Stowell, large stock raisers on the Yellowstone. Mr. Leighton said Mr. Newman, of St. Louis, drove in 13,000 head of cattle late last October. His herders report now that his loss will not be one-half of one per cent. Judge Stowell had about 1,800 head on the ranges and reports that he has not lost an animal. Guthrie & Ming disclaim any loss whatever on 2,000 head. Scott & Hank put in positively the disclaimers as to their own vast herds of 20,000 head. Carpenter Brothers drove in from Oregon and Nebraska last year about 4,700 head, and report no loss. Thompson Hubbard, of Mankato, Minn., drove in from Minnesota 4,500 head. These came in quite late, and were driven up to the Wyoming line on the headwaters of the Rosebud. They have lost fifteen or twenty per cent. This loss was occasioned by the deep snow fall in that region. "I had 20,000 head on the Missouri, 40 miles below Buford, at the mouth of the Yellowstone," said Mr. Leighton, "and I lost 10 per cent. of these. They have had a deep snow there from the last of October until now, and there the only wonder is that they didn't all die. I shall move on to the Tongue and Yellowstone right away." Judge Stowell corroborated all that Mr. Leighton said. J. E. Martin, of Bozeman, explained the good condition of cattle in Montana as follows: "We place our cattle out on the ranges where the grass is good, and leave them in charge of men in the winter who look after them and see that they do not drift, but we are in a mountainous country and natural protection is afforded on the winter ranges for our cattle, and we do not experience the same difficulties they do on the plains to the south."—St. Paul Pioneer-Press.

Weighing the Girls.

"Was the girl who 'took the cake,' literally and metaphorically speaking, at the South Main street church last night. The occasion was a 'weight social,' and the scene one by which the gallant young man had to pay for the privilege of taking his girl to supper by her avoirdupois weight. The evening's entertainment was opened by a short musical selection by W. H. Longhead, which was followed by a short dialogue by some young men, entitled 'The Smoke Flend.' A Fairbank scales with a capacity of five hundred pounds was then wheeled out and a general order given for each young lady to be weighed. The programme was that each lady should be weighed and receive a card with her number and weight. A duplicate card was then dropped into a box, and when the weighing was concluded each gentleman drew one out. He was then required to take the lady holding the number he drew to supper, and pay one-fourth of a cent per pound per weight for this privilege. Some of the girls seemed rather 'red-hot,' being weighed. They approached the scales timidly. A reporter, who sat unnoticed, noted here some important peculiarities of the feminine mind. There were 'about one hundred weighed in all. Of these, twenty-four laughed and said something about breaking the 'smashen' if they got on it. Seventeen said, after seeing some one else go through the operation, 'Where do you get on the thing?' Eleven others came up bashfully, and after looking at the arm protecting the lever, asked, with a giggle, if that 'was the place to take hold of.' The fun, however, increased when the gentlemen came to find out who they had to take to supper, and to 'size them up,' as it were. The plan was a success financially, and the receipts of the evening must have been pleasing to the young men who planned and carried out the programme so successfully.—Albion Advertiser.

A Lawful Excuse.

"Why didn't you attend my wife's funeral?" said an angry man, approaching an acquaintance. "When your wife was buried I was there, and now, sir, as you did not return the favor, I am going to whale you until you can't stand up. People have been slighting me long enough, and I'm blamed if I'm going to stand it any longer."

"Hold on, my friend; I know that you attended my wife's funeral, and I know that it was my duty to exchange courtesies, but there was a good reason why I was not present."

"Make satisfactory explanation, or I'll join you with an unpleasant hand."

"The truth is that I owe that undertaker, and I knew that if he saw me he would come me for the money."

"Your excuse is accepted. I owe the fellow, myself, and am keeping out of the way. There is a new saloon around here. Let's go and stand-off the bar-tender."—Traveler.

May Is King.

The statistics of the United States prove that May is among the foremost crops raised in this country, if not the very first. At the present time there are estimated to be in the United States, 40,000,000 sheep, 40,000,000 cattle and 30,000,000 horses. In two-thirds of the country these animals require to be fed from three to five months, and they will consume an aggregate of 90,000,000 tons, which, at \$5 per ton, represents the enormous sum of \$450,000,000. Is not May, therefore, king?—Wesley Red-head.

One hundred and fifty persons left one county on the west coast of Ireland and sailed for America. Famille drove them away from their homes.

In some of the factories in Toronto, Canada, young girls are whipped for disobedience and neglect of work, and a society of ladies has been formed for their protection.

A young man of Mehus, who recently went west, writes home to his nuptials send him \$1,000, with which to marry a wealthy young lady there.—Courier.

It is claimed that under the new law no free passes can be issued on railroads. The clause with reference to discrimination being interpreted by the railroads as applying to passengers as well as freight.

Some signs may always be relied upon when a lady makes a young man a present of a handkerchief, and he immediately proceeds to lock it up in a drawer, notwithstanding that he has a cold in the head, and his washing hasn't been brought home, it is usually safe to presume that he is in love.

Medicine Lodge now has two of the best papers in the state. The Index has been seven columns quarto for some time, and the Crescent has recently enlarged to the same size. Both papers give evidence of a healthy patronage as well as good management, and we are glad to see the boys prospering.—Anthony Journal.

Mr. J. O. N. Dorsey, an Indian missionary, is pleading the cause of the noble red man in Washington. As soon as the little Apache unpleasantness blows over the public will be ready to discuss Indian needs and wants. For the present the child of the forest will be obliged to rest content with favors of the past. He has struck us inopportunely.

Phil Sheridan is credited with saying that "The dead Indian is the only good Indian," and the recent cold-blooded and unprovoked murder of Judge McComas and wife brings the red scoundrel again into notice, and the most condign punishment should be visited upon them. No Apache has ever been known to be possessed of any civility, decency or regard for the rights or lives of others until he was dead, and the Apache tribe will never become civilized until it has been exterminated. Just why this gang of murderers and thieves should be borne with longer it is difficult to conceive. They are undeserving of any leniency whatever.

The dynamite fiends are exciting the most extended and serious alarms throughout England. Numerous arrests are being made. France is threatened with the same disorder. Denmark is having socialist troubles, and the czar is not certain that he will live long enough to be crowned. A mine has been discovered under the Kremlin in which the coronation is to take place. Thus our boasted civilization is culminating in frightful disorder. The education of the people is a dangerous experiment for tyrants and for governments that attempt to become too paternal. The United States had better take warning in time.

Mr. M. V. B. Bennett is at present instructing the rural New Yorkers in the matter of prohibition in Kansas. In Lockport recently he uttered the following beautiful sentiment: "I feel that my boys are safe. If any saloon keeper inveigles them into his place I shall not appeal to the law, but I shall settle the account with the saloon keeper myself, leaving his administrator to settle with me." During the period of Mr. Bennett's visit, it is needless to remark, the Lockport saloon keepers shot up shop. But New Yorkers must not think that all the residents of Southern Kansas are like Mr. Bennett. Not unfrequently both the old man (not Mr. Bennett) and the boys refuse to settle the account for financial reasons, and occasionally the boys, more particularly the cowboys, anticipate the old man's fondest relaxation. But there is no rule to apply to liquor drinking in Kansas. Both drinking and the manner of settlement are matters of individual taste.

A San Francisco millionaire, hoping to encourage his promising son in ways of thrift, promised to give him two per cent, a month interest upon any money that he might save out of his spending allowances and deposit in the paternal treasury. The young man was getting twenty dollars a week for pocket money, and promised to show his appreciation of his affectionate offer. He began to make deposits without delay, and kept the practice up with remarkable regularity. The old gentleman noticed presently that the deposits exceeded the whole of the boy's allowance, and accounted for this by supposing that he had saved money previously. Besides this, he received money frequently from his mother. So the fond parent rejoiced the saving disposition that his son was displaying. This continued until the boy's deposits assumed such dimensions as to demand an explanation. It then turned out that most of the money that he had been depositing had been borrowed. Inasmuch as he was drawing interest on his deposits at two per cent, a month, and was paying only ten per cent, a year for them, he had found the business decidedly attractive and profitable.